

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05644 050037Z  
ACTION EA-12

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, JA  
SUBJECT: LOCKHEED BRIBERY TESTIMONY

REF: TOKYO 03785

SUMMARY: IN LOCKHEED TRIAL FORMER MARUBENI EXECUTIVE HIROSHI ITO TESTIFIED APRIL 5 THAT HE GAVE BRIBES TO FORMER PRIMIN TANAKA, FORMER LDP SEC GEN AND TRANSPORT MINISTER HASHIMOTO, AND FORMER CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAI DO IN 1972. PRESS HAS GIVEN MUCH PLAY TO WHAT WAS ONLY FIRSTHAND TESTIMONY ON TANAKA SO FAR. ANOTHER RESULT OF ITO'S TESTIMONY HAS BEEN TO INCREASE OPPOSITION PRES-SURE FOR TESTIMONY IN DIET BY NIKAI DO AND OTHER UNINDICT-ABLE "GRAY OFFICIALS." INASMUCH AS LDP CONTROLS LOWER HOUSE SPECIAL LOCKHEED COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, DIET TESTIMONY IS QUITE UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMER MARUBENI MANAGING DIRECTOR HIROSHI ITO MADE  
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05644 050037Z

CONSIDERABLE IMPACT WHEN HE TESTIFIED AT 47TH SESSION OF TRIAL OF ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA) OFFICIALS ON APRIL 3 THAT HE GAVE TOTAL OF 20 MILLION YEN (FAMED "UNITS") IN BRIBES TO THEN PRIMIN TANAKA (10 MILLION YEN), THEN LDP SEC GEN HASHIMOTO (5 MILLION), AND THEN CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAI DO (5 MILLION). PAYMENTS, FUNNELED BY LOCKHEED THROUGH ANA AND MARUBENI, WERE MEANT TO SMOOTH

WAY FOR GOJ'S APPROVAL OF PURCHASE BY ANA OF TRI-STAR AIRBUSES. ALTHOUGH ITO, HIMSELF A DEFENDANT IN CONCURRENT "MARUBENI ROUTE" TRIAL, SAID HE DID NOT GIVE MONEY DIRECTLY TO TANAKA BUT TO HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, TOSHIO ENOMOTO, AT TOKYO RESTAURANT ON NOVEMBER 16, 1972, HIS WAS ONLY FIRSTHAND TESTIMONY TO HAVE IMPLICATED TANAKA SO FAR AND PRESS HAS MADE MUCH OF IT. AS REFTEL REPORTED, ITO'S SUBORDINATE, SOEJIMA, TESTIFIED LAST MONTH THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PRESENT BUT THOUGHT ITO HAD GIVEN MONEY TO ENOMOTO AS WELL AS HASHIMOTO AND NIKAIDO.

2. TANAKA AND HASHIMOTO HAVE, OF COURSE, BEEN INDICTED AND WILL EVENTUALLY GIVE THEIR SIDE OF STORY IN COURT. NIKAIDO, ONE OF SIX FORMER OFFICIALS CITED BY LOCKHEED PROSECUTORS IN NOVEMBER 1976 AS "GRAY NAMES" WHO WERE UNINDICTABLE BECAUSE OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS OR LACK OF EVIDENCE, AFTER TESTIMONY PROMPTLY SLAPPED HEFTY LIBEL SUIT ON ITO. DEFENSE WILL CROSS-EXAMINE ITO ON APRIL 10.

3. COMMENT: MEDIA HAVE PLAYED ITO TESTIMONY MAINLY AS IT RELATED TO TANAKA'S INVOLVEMENT. WITH TANAKA'S TRIAL SHOWING EVERY SIGN OF DRAGGING ON FOR MANY MONTHS, IF NOT YEARS (OUR GUESS IS THAT TANAKA HIMSELF WILL NOT TESTIFY BEFORE THIS FALL, AT EARLIEST), FIRST EFFECT OF ITO'S TESTIMONY HAS BEEN TO INCREASE PRESSURE FOR SUMMONING OF NIKAIDO AND OTHER GRAY OFFICIALS FOR TESTIMONY AT LOWER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 05644 050037Z

HOUSE SPECIAL LOCKHEED COMMITTEE. SINCE OPPOSITION FIRST BEGAN DEMANDING DIET TESTIMONY BY GRAY NAMES IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, LDP HAS FIRMLY RESISTED ON GROUNDS THAT TESTIMONY MIGHT INTERFERE WITH ON-GOING COURT PROCEEDINGS. (COMPLICATING FACTOR IS INSISTENCE OF ONE GRAY OFFICIAL, FUKUNAGA, ON TESTIFYING TO CLEAR HIS NAME.) AFTER ITO TESTIMONY, LOWER HOUSE LOCKHEED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HIROSE (LDP) RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO CALL MEETING OF COMMITTEE'S DIRECTORS APRIL 5 TO RECONSIDER OPPOSITION'S DEMAND. CONSIDERING THAT DIRECTORS, LIKE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ITSELF, ARE EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN LDP AND OPPOSITION, AND DIRECTORS' DECISIONS MUST BE UNANIMOUS, THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE AT PRESENT THAT DIET TESTIMONY WILL BE AGREED TO, EVEN IN WAKE OF ITO'S DRAMATIC TESTIMONY. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 05 apr 1978  
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